

# The West Virginian

"THE PAPER THAT GOES HOME."

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FRIDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 21, 1917.



## MONONGAH'S GOOD HEALTH.

ONE of the most significant items in last night's issue of The West Virginian occupied very little space. It ran to the effect that there is very little sickness in Monongah and that the physicians of that busy town say it has been a long time since health conditions have been so favorable.

If some one were to take the trouble to make an investigation it very likely would develop that never was there such a small amount of illness in proportion to population. The explanation of this very satisfactory condition? The thoroughgoing cleaning which the homes, the town and even outdoors received after the outbreak of poliomyelitis there last summer.

Public, home and personal cleanliness cost some little effort and even some money, but no outlay pays bigger dividends. Monongah was not a bad sort of a town even before infantile paralysis became epidemic there. When that occurred panic made all hands willing to clean up, and a wisely paternal coal company employed experts to point out what ought to be done and provided funds to do some of the necessary things. The result is that this holiday season finds nearly every one in Monongah, old and young, enjoying good health and ready to celebrate with a zest that does credit to the occasion.

Now that Monongah people have had a demonstration of what sanitary surroundings can do it is to be hoped that they will not suffer conditions to lapse back to the ways of sloth and indifference. It would be a good thing, too, if other cities and towns in this section were to profit a little by Monongah's gratifying experience. Indeed County Health Officer L. N. Yost, whose illustrated lectures on sanitation have done so much to spread the gospel of hygiene in Marion county, might find Monongah a fine topic for a new lecture.

## CHECKMATE!

WHEN Judge Comstock, of Mankato, Minn., after "sugesting" that a hot headed wholesale grocer who made uncomplimentary remarks about the government of the United States buy some Liberty bonds and give money to the Red Cross, the Knights of Columbus and the Y. M. C. A., fined him \$500, he probably did not improve the doubtful quality of the grocer's citizenship, but he set an example that will go a long way toward keeping people who do not like what is going on in this country from airing their views—and that is some gain.

Before we took the war plunge butchers, bakers, candlestick makers, to say nothing of the beggarman and leaves, were having far too much rope for the good of the country. In the ordinary course of events they would have been brought to book. The war merely hastened the process and has had a tendency to make it a bit more thorough than it otherwise would have been.

Naturally a lot of them do not like it, but if they are wise they will not let the public find it out, for if they arouse marked antagonism some of the war time rigor is bound to survive in the control which they will have to submit to after the peace. The good old days of all the traffic will bear have passed in this country, as they passed long ago in practically every other country of our class the globe.

## SUBMARINE FAILURE.

WHEN America entered the war and our emergency ship building program was adopted it was believed that the tonnage which it was estimated could be turned out in this country in short order would be needed as much to keep England from starving as to properly equip and provision our army on the European battle fields. But Lloyd George's statement of yesterday, in which he showed that while the sinkings by submarines are decreasing the new ships being launched are increasing so that the margin

of losses at sea are narrowing, indicates that it is an affair almost entirely of our own. Doubtless as they watch us bungle it the British congratulate themselves over that, albeit they must feel a great amount of sympathy for us in our plight. They have traveled the same road in some things that were quite as important to their success.

The way in which Britain has reacted under the submarine blow is one of the marvels of the war. If the leaders of the nation knew fear when the German empire embarked upon the career of piracy which was to bring the United States into the war as one of its results, the people never found it out. Every one went to work to readjust under the new restrictions that were necessary and at no time did the undersea blockade cause suffering. In the end the economic condition of the British people has been very much improved. The country while still far from self sustaining, produces many times more food than it did before the war and the vague fear of starvation which haunted the British people for years before the war broke out has almost if not quite disappeared.

## FOLLOWING CORNWELL'S LEAD.

BY deciding to go ahead and bring the gas shortage matter to a head through an action before the Public Service Commission the directors of the Fairmont Chamber of Commerce and the members of the Special Gas committee encourage the hope that at last something tangible will be done about this menace to the physical well being and industrial prosperity of the people of West Virginia which has grown to such alarming proportions during the past two winters.

By substituting action for argument they will provide something upon which all who are interested in an adequate gas supply for the state can unite, and if it is found that the original course does not result as it is hoped it will no trouble will be experienced in turning the whole strength of the movement into some other promising channel.

The course which it now seems probable will be followed is the one suggested by Governor Cornwell in his letter to Hon. O. S. McKinney, of this city, and the more those who have given thought to the matter study the Governor's plan the more they are inclined to believe he is right.

In this matter Governor Cornwell has shown leadership of a kind that inspires the utmost confidence. It is evident to all those who have been in correspondence with him on the subject since it became uppermost among the domestic affairs of West Virginia that he has given it much painstaking study and will not rest until justice has been obtained for the people of this state. If the appeal to the Public Service Commission brings that it will be in a large measure a personal triumph for the Governor.

Secretary Lansing has uncovered another lot of notes sent from Buenos Aires to the foreign office in Berlin by the now notorious Count Luxburg and from Berlin to Luxburg. It is perhaps as well for the safety of the German diplomatist that these further disclosures did not come until Luxburg got safely out of South America. Luxburg came very close to doing this country a great deal of damage in South America. And in overshooting his mark he did to his own country an amount of harm that it will take decades of the hardest kind of work to overcome. The disclosures in his correspondence of the thinly veiled contempt in which official Germany holds the South Americans are almost certain to make those proud and sensitive people resentful for a long time. They also will make South Americans wary of German protestations of friendship and good will. The war has revealed Imperial German aspirations in an unlovely light many times since it began, but in no instance will the disclosures prove more costly to the German people than in South America, where they were well on the way to domination of the commercial and financial situation.

Washington dispatches say the intense hostility of Senator Reed toward Food Administrator Hoover is destroying the effectiveness of the sugar probe. It is also showing up the haphazard manner in which Congress conducts inquiries in a way which ought to force a radical reform. The British Parliament would not have thought of conducting an investigation of similar importance without creating a special committee; the Senate dumped the job into the lap of the committee which the antiquated system of the body indicated without waiting to find out whether the committee was competent to conduct the business or not. The other day a great eastern newspaper declared that the only thing in the United States which has not gone on a war basis is Congress, and there is a lot of truth in the remark.

Again the situation in Italy is grave as the result of the use of fresh troops which the Austro-Germans have been able to bring from the East front, but there is now no panic in Italy and no danger of a military collapse there, no matter what happens. The situation is unchanged from the viewpoint of higher strategy. The price the Central powers are paying for their present successes in the long run may prove too heavy for them to bear.

Do not take any liberties with this balmy weather. It is full of grip and other predatory beasts of the microscopic world.

## SHORT AND SNAPPY.

Anyhow, this Christmas will see Jerusalem redeemed out of infidel pawn.—Wheeling Intelligencer.

The annual report of Secretary of War Baker is described as "void of information." This term is never out of place when used in connection with any document emanating from this source.—Connellsville Courier.

If the Public Service Commission has the power, and the governor intimates it has, then it is high time that honorable body was doing something to relieve the fuel conditions in the state.—Parkersburg News.

The Kaiser's idea of getting troops out of the trenches is to take them out on the Eastern front and put them in on the Western front.—Charleston Mail.

of the curbstone loafers into a closed room and conserving their output.

Those Jackson street people ought to have a private fire alarm system.

First lightless night last night.

Not so very lightless at that.

Might do, though, after the holiday, to keep some of the chronic street loafers at home two evenings of each week.

Some of them might form the habit if it does.

The stay home habit we mean.

But not much danger.

Beginning to look as if Santa Claus will need a pair of mud proof galoshes.

Weather man pulled his fine snow storm too soon.

But all will be forgotten if the mince pie has the right flavor.

And if the mud on the roads does not get too deep there ought not to be the slightest trouble about that.

## Aged Woman Dies As Result of Burns

Funeral services over the body of Mrs. Ann Davis, a sister of Mrs. Charles Nay, of this city, who died from burns at her home in Shinnston on Wednesday, were held this afternoon at 2 o'clock from the Shinnston Baptist church, Rev. E. B. Moyer officiating. The body was interred in the I. O. O. F. cemetery. Mrs. Davis caught fire from a gas radiator and before the flames could be extinguished she was so severely burned that her death resulted a few hours later. She was aged 71 years.

## Cooperation, Publicity And Fairness Needed In RR Trouble

By A. D. WILLIAMS

Asso. member Am. So. C. E.; Chairman W. Va. State Road Commission; President Southern Appalachian Good Roads Asso.; Acting Sec. Am. Asso. of State Highway Officials.

A recent editorial in the Railway Age Gazette referring to the coal situation says that the coal shortage and fuel difficulties are due to the coal operators not organizing, is not borne out by the testimony of active railroad men, high in railway councils, leading coal operators, secretaries of coal associations, or government officials in touch with the situation nor by the fact as seen from one conversant with the coal field and the transportation problems relating to development enterprises. We should not be surprised at such utterances from a country weekly edited by a designing partisan, whose field of training and intellectual horizon did not reach beyond the borders of his local district but from a great journal representing a great interest and a great industry, such productions are misleading. The business man must form his conclusions between the following thoughts:

First: The railroad as represented by the Gazette as their spokesman are trying to deceive the public and shift responsibility in the present crisis.

Second: That they are trying to be unfair to the public by misrepresenting the shippers and their customers.

Third: That the Gazette is prejudiced in its statement or ignorant of the facts governing the situation.

Neither of these questions should be raised in the public mind because the raising of such questions leads to distrust which destroys its field of usefulness. Ever professional or trade journal should be careful to at all times state the facts and base claims for position on the truth of the situation and if it cannot win the public mind on truth as its basis, there is something wrong with the contention or the position of the journal.

The statement that the coal men have failed because they have not organized recalls the fable story of the contrary dog relating his first visit to town. "If he stood still he was bit by the curious and jealous bystanders and if he tried to run he was bit by the coward—now pretending brave and the vicious." It has not been a year since nearly all of the bituminous coal operators, especially in the southern West Virginia and smokeless field, were accused of violating the anti-trust law and at much expense and inconvenience were hauled from their work to face a judge and jury that found them "not guilty." In impeaching the jury men refused to serve stating that they were prejudiced against these local operators, so prejudiced that they could not give them justice. Why? Because the public mind had been so fed misstatements that honest men admitted their minds were so poisoned that they could not render a fair and impartial verdict. Some of these statements were of evil design but many were the products of constructed prejudice based on insufficient knowledge of the facts.

It is an easy matter to keep the fire going that is once kindled and the reporter who makes his living by selling space can be excused in a measure for jumping at conclusions in connection with subjects that the flames of public passion are ready to consume. But the steady, careful, thinking editor back of the technical trade and professional journal is expected to be more careful and should be looked upon as an honest mold of constructive opinion.

The recent statement by the fuel administrator is to the effect that there is sufficient coal being mined in this country if it could only be distributed.

Only recently Mr. Thompson, vice-president of the B. & O. Railroad and head of the Eastern Railway Pool, stated that the problem was not with the coal operators but the lack of transportation.

Mr. Jerry Wheelright, president of the Consolidation Coal Company, in a public letter recently stated that the mines in the Fairmont field were operating only 5 per cent. of their time owing to the lack of cars.

The secretary of the Central West Virginia Coal Operators' Association corroborated that statement and the newspapers covering that field set forth such facts practically each day. A. M. Land, secretary of the Guyan Valley Coal Operators' Association in a letter dated December 10, to Governor Cox, of Ohio, stated that the mines in that field were practically shut down for the want of cars and that loaded cars had been standing in the Guyan Valley yards from October until the date of that letter.

In the latter days of November, Mr. Lyons, General Manager of the Kanawha & Michigan Railroad, informed the writer that they had more than 3,000 loaded coal cars upon their sidings between Gauley Bridge and Corinth, Ohio, that the capacity of the mines along the K. & M. lines

leman has had to change his heart and mind, what will be the disposition of the public, especially when articles such as the Gazette has put forth, are laid before the business men who know that they are not correct.

The problem that confronts us today is a misunderstanding in the public mind in reference to various industries and various lines of activity as much as the abnormal conditions due to the present crisis and to correct this condition it is incumbent upon all engineers, professional men and trade journals as well as business men to state the truth and take the public into their confidence, because we are now facing a crisis in our transportation system and in our whole government and business activities, never before equalled in the history of this country and at the same time we are undergoing changes in the public minds and sentiments of government, due to the stress under which the whole country is laboring that may bring forth, in a passionate manner, laws that will be very costly not only to the interest affected but to the entire nation at future date.

A thorough example of his condition is the spasmodic manner in which the coal industry was treated by recent legislation and by the attitude of certain politicians in passing this legislation. It has been stated that a very prominent politician in order to carry his points and effect the ends showed photographs of rotten and discarded barges representing them to be idle and that the coal operators of the country were not supplying the wants because these barges were evidence for the possible chances for transportation. At the same time the river over which these barges were supposed to be floated were not navigable owing to lack of locks and low water. Political maneuvers are not always productive of the highest efficiency in fact, a great many times political strategy murders efficiency. Men in a political passion seemingly do things without considering the effects. As a fair example, the county court situation of the State of West Virginia can be cited. The members of that tribunal in each county, according to a constitutional provision, are permitted to receive \$2.00 per day for the time actually served in court, no compensation for time going and returning and no allowance for expenses. A constitutional amendment to remedy this condition has been submitted to the voters of the people at the general election.

(Continued on Page Eight.)



## Lodge "Him" In The Lap of Luxury With Shurtleff and Welton's Xmas Slippers

## Give Him Slippers and He Will Thank You!

Each evening after the work is done and he settles down before the fire, he will give "Inward Thanks" that you were so thoughtful!

And you will find the slippers that he likes best of all—here.

Leather and Felt Romeos, Operas and Everetts \$1.25 to \$2.50.

Other members of the family can be suited here also—Woman's Slippers \$1.25 to \$1.75. Boy's and Girls' 85c to \$1.85.

Load down the Xmas tree with footwear for every member of the family—the best styles here.

## Shurtleff & Welton

Open Evenings Until Christmas.



## See Your Dollars Pile up for Christmas

Here's the Way to Get Them Join Our

## Christmas Savings Club

We are ready now for the enrollment of members. Regular date for starting the club is Dec. 17th. It offers an exceptional opportunity for you to accumulate a fund for Christmas or other uses.

IT'S FREE! NO FEES! NO FINES! NOTHING TO LOSE!

Here's the Plan Come and tell us what class you want to join (you may join as many classes as you wish) and pay the first weeks' amount. We will give you a patented deposit bank card and full instructions. Then each week you pay in the proper amount for the required number of weeks and receive a check before Christmas for the amount you have saved.

Our Christmas Savings Club SYSTEMATIZES YOUR SAVINGS. It's a cooperative plan. "In union there is strength." "Many hands make light work." So with this club. You get the benefit of a great organization enjoying all the advantages of the most approved banking system.

## See How Your Savings Grow

The 1c Class will amount to	\$12.75
The 2c class will amount to	\$25.50
The 5c class will amount to	\$63.75
The 10c class will amount to	\$127.05

We have the above classes in reducing amounts; also the 10c, 25c, 50c, \$1.00 and \$2.00 straight weekly payment classes.

## You May Join Now

You may join as many classes as you wish.

If for any reason you should not keep up your payments YOU WILL GET BACK EVERY CENT PAID IN. You may pay in advance if you wish. JOIN THIS CLUB YOURSELF. Get your family and friends to join also. COME TO THE BANK AND LET US EXPLAIN ANYTHING YOU WISH TO KNOW. This is the BEST way. Get the saving habit—it's a good one.

## The Peoples National Bank OF FAIRMONT

## RUFF STUFF

If all the lads in the army who write that they are coming for Christmas get here the old town will look like it did when the regiment was out at the fair grounds.

It'll just seem like old times.

And the girls will vote this one the best Christmas ever.

If the coal famine at the pumping station becomes very bad they might try running the pumps with hot air.

Supply of that is always abundant at city hall.

And if by any chance they run short there they might try running a few